



**Renison University College**  
Affiliated with the University of Waterloo  
240 Westmount Road N, Waterloo, ON  
Canada N2L 3G4

Phone: 519-884-4404 | Fax: 519-884-5135 | [uwaterloo.ca/Renison](http://uwaterloo.ca/Renison)

## **Renison University College Land Acknowledgement**

With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

### **Fall 2021**

**Course Code:** RS 201/EASIA 205R

**Course Title:** Religion in East Asia

**Class Times/Location:** Offered remotely in Fall 2021

**Office Hours:** TBD (held virtually)

### **Course Description**

In this course we will explore the religious traditions of East Asia. This course will trace the historical development, ideas, and practices of Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Shamanism, Shintoism, and folk traditions within China, Korea, and Japan. It may also consider the arrival of non-Asian religions (Christianity and Islam) to this region and the impact of Communism, modernization, and globalization on East Asian religious traditions. Attention is paid to primary texts, myths, ethics, organization, material culture, and religious practice. Above all, this course seeks to focus on the lived religious experiences of the followers of these religions.

### **Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Grasp the fundamentals of the diverse range of religious traditions found in East Asia
- Identify different beliefs and practices of East Asian religions

- Identify and describe similarities and differences of religious traditions within China, Korea, and Japan
- Describe the influence of East Asian religious traditions on East Asian cultures
- Explain the impact of non-Asian religious traditions and non-religious ideologies in East Asia

**A Note about Syllabus:** This syllabus and course content is subject to change as necessary by the instructor.

**A Note About Content:** Films, books, and other media that we will view or read for this course contain a wide range of content, including things that may make students uncomfortable or upset. This may include physical or sexual violence, discrimination, sexuality or nudity, religious or cultural views at variance with your own, frightening images and events, and other potentially disturbing content. Please speak with the instructor if you wish to receive more information about particular types of content.

**A Note About Online Scheduling:** Weekly lectures and scheduled deadlines are listed in Eastern Standard Time (EST). If you are not located in EST, it is your responsibility to ensure that you correctly calculate the time difference to ensure you attend the weekly lectures and submit your assignments on time. We have limited synchronous time and this was done deliberately to avoid fatigue associated with extensive online learning. Given this limited lecture time, it is important that you attend and participate in the synchronous lectures and keep up with the readings and assignments. These will supplement the more limited lectures. If you are unable to attend (or watch the recordings of) the weekly classes and stay for the whole session, or if you are unable to submit your discussion posts and other assignments by their stated deadlines, you should consider registering for another course.

### **Required Text**

All readings will be available online through LEARN or the Library. There is no required textbook or courseware, but you will need to read the readings made available through LEARN or the Library.

It is vital that these readings are completed each week as they will be used for the discussion boards and quizzes. Weekly reading requirements are listed in the weekly schedule. In addition to the readings, class materials may include primary source readings, objects, videos, visual art, songs and chants, and other multimedia.

**Note:** The instructor reserves the right to change/add/subtract course readings and materials as needed.

## **Course Requirements and Assessment**

Information on course requirements and assessments.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Date of Evaluation (if known)</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Discussion Forums	Ongoing	2.5% x 12 = 30%
Quizzes	Oct 22, Nov 12, and Dec 3	30%
Participation/Attendance	Ongoing	15%
Final Assignment - MyTopic	Oct 8, Nov 5, and Dec 10	25%

### **Course Evaluation - Details**

#### **Discussion Forums**

Students will be graded on their participation in the LEARN discussion forums. Discussion responses are **due by 10pm**.

As you can see from the weighting of the assessments, discussions make up a significant portion of your final grade. Detailed instructions and resources for the discussion forums can be found on LEARN. You will also find the rubric for the discussion forums included in this document. **Please be sure to read these thoroughly to understand the expectations about the discussion forums.**

**Initial posts are due on Wednesday 10pm. Responses are due on Fridays 10pm.**

#### **Quizzes**

Each module will have an end-of-module quiz. Each module consists of a geographical area and their respective traditions. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true-false, and matching questions. These will be posted and graded on LEARN. Quizzes must be submitted by **10pm** on their due date. You will be allowed to complete each quiz twice and take the higher score.

#### **MyTopic**

The final assignment for this course is the opportunity for you to dive deeper into topic or theme from the course. Since we can't cover everything that we could possibly learn about religion in East Asia, the MyTopic assignment, designed to be worked on during the semester, is the chance for you to pick something you are curious about and design a presentation/lesson complete with activities, readings, and multimedia, to learn more about it. **More information and instructions on this assignment can be found in the MyTopic document on LEARN.**

Note: The MyTopic assignment has been inspired by and based on Dr. James Skidmore's (German Studies; University of Waterloo) MyModule assignment.

**Schedule:**

Module	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignment Due
1	<p>Sept 13-17, 2021</p> <p>- Classes began Wednesday, Sept 8, 2021</p> <p>- Lecture: Tuesday Sept 14, 10am</p>	<p>Introduction/Course Overview</p> <p>-Scope and limitations</p> <p>-Chinese religion</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Thompson, Laurence G. "The Theory of Ancestor Worship," <i>Chinese Religion: An Introduction</i> (5th Edition), Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1996: 40-50.</p> <p>Thompson, Laurence G. "Temples and Their Functioning," <i>Chinese Religion: An Introduction</i> (5th Edition), Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1996: 60-66.</p> <p>Discussion Post #1: Post to "Introduce Yourself" and "Hopes and Desires for Course"</p>
2	<p>Sept 20-24, 2021</p> <p>- Lecture: Tuesday 10am</p> <p>- Add period ends on Sept 21, 2021</p>	<p>Daoism</p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Thompson, Laurence G. "Taoist Tradition," <i>Chinese Religion: An Introduction</i> (5th Edition), Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1996: 81-89</p> <p>Russell Kirkland. "Understanding Taoism," <i>Taoism: The Enduring Tradition</i> (1<sup>st</sup> Edition), London: Routledge, 2004: 1-20.</p> <p>Discussion Posts #2 Due Wednesday</p>

			Responses Due Friday
<b>3</b>	<b>Sept 27-Oct 1, 2021</b>  - Lecture: <b>Tuesday 10am</b>  - <b>Sept 28: Drop deadline to withdraw from classes with 100% tuition refund</b>	<b>Confucianism</b>	Readings: Koller, J.M and P.J. "Confucianism," <i>Asian Philosophies</i> , Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall: 252-265  Gardner, Daniel K. "Confucius (551-479 BCE) and his legacy: An introduction," <i>Confucianism: A Very Short Introduction</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014: 1-15  Discussion Posts #3 Due Wednesday  Responses Due Friday
<b>4</b>	<b>Oct 4-8, 2021</b>  - Lecture: <b>Tuesday 10am</b>	<b>Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism in China</b>	Readings: Mitchell, Donald and Sarah H. Jacoby, eds. "The Teachings of the Buddha," "The Chinese Experience of Buddhism," "Persecution and Decline," and "The Cultural Experience of Chinese Buddhism Today," <i>Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience</i> (3 <sup>rd</sup> edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014: 31-61; 222-224; 252-255; 267-271  Discussion Posts #4 Due Wednesday  Responses Due Friday  <b>Checkpoint #1 for MyTopic due Friday by 10pm</b>
<b>READING WEEK: Oct 9-17, 2021</b> <b>No readings or assignments due.</b>			

<p>5</p>	<p><b>Oct 18-22, 2021</b></p> <p>- Lecture: <b>Tuesday 10am</b></p>	<p><b>Recent Developments in China</b></p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>De Bary, Wm. Theodore, Wing-tsit Chan, and Chester Tan, eds. "Selections from Report on an Investigation of the Hunan Peasant Movement," <i>Sources of Chinese Traditions Volume II</i> ((<i>First Paperbound edition</i>), New York: Columbia University Press, 1960: 207-213</p> <p>Zuo, Jiping. "Political Religion: The Case of the Cultural Revolution in China," <i>Sociological Analysis</i>: vol 52, no. 1, 1991: 99-110</p> <p>Lai, Hongyi Harry. "The Religious Revival in China," <i>The Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies</i>, vol. 18, 2003: 40-64</p> <p>Discussion Posts #5 Due Wednesday</p> <p>Responses Due Friday</p> <p><b>Quiz #1 on China Due by Friday at 10pm</b></p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Oct 25-29, 2021</b></p> <p>- Lecture: <b>Tuesday 10am</b></p> <p>- Oct 26: <b>Deadline for 50% tuition refund</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction to Korean Religion and Shamanism and Confucianism</b></p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Lee, Jung Young. "Shamanistic Thought and Traditional Korean Homes," Chai-Shin Yu, ed, <i>Korean and Asian Religious Tradition</i>, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1977: 123-130</p> <p>Lew, Sueng-kook. "Confucianism and Korean Social Structure," Chai-Shin Yu, ed, <i>Korean and Asian Religious Tradition</i>,</p>

			<p>Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1977: 159-166</p> <p>Discussion Posts #6 Due Wednesday</p> <p>Responses Due Friday</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Nov 1-5, 2021</b></p> <p>- <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Tuesday 10am</b></p>	<b>Buddhism in Korea</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Mitchell, Donald and Sarah H. Jacoby, eds. "Korean Experience of Buddhism," <i>Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience</i> (3<sup>rd</sup> edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014:275-306</p> <p>Buswell, Robert. "Buddhism in Korea," <i>Buddhism and Asian History</i>, Joseph Kitagawa and Mark Cummings, eds., New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1989: 151-158</p> <p>Discussion Posts #7 Due Wednesday</p> <p>Responses Due Friday</p> <p><b>Checkpoint #2 for MyTopic due Friday by 10pm</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Nov 8-12, 2021</b></p> <p>- <b>Lecture:</b> <b>Tuesday 10am</b></p>	<b>Recent Developments in Korea</b>	<p>Readings: TDB</p> <p>Discussion Posts #8 Due Wednesday</p> <p>Responses Due Friday</p> <p><b>Quiz #2 on Korea Due Friday</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Nov 15-19, 2021</b></p>	<b>Introduction to Japanese Religion and Shintoism</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Earhart, H. Byron. "Persistent Themes in Japanese Religious</p>

	- Lecture: Tuesday 10am		<p>History," <i>Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity (Fourth Edition)</i>, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2004: 7-11</p> <p>Earhart, H. Byron. "The Organization of Shinto," <i>Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity (Fourth Edition)</i>, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2004: 35-39</p> <p>Inoue, Nobutaka, Endo Jun, Mori Mizue, Ito Satoshi, eds. "Introduction: What is Shinto?" "Ancient and Classical Japan: The Dawn of Shinto" <i>Shinto: A Short History (First Edition)</i>, London: Routledge, 2003; 1-11, 12-35</p> <p>Discussion Posts #9 Due Wednesday</p> <p>Responses Due Friday</p>
10	Nov 22-26, 2021  - Lecture: Tuesday 10am	<b>Japanese Pure Land and Zen Buddhism</b>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Inoue, Nobutaka, Endo Jun, Mori Mizue, Ito Satoshi, eds. "The Medieval Period: The Kami Merge with Buddhism," <i>Shinto: A Short History (First Edition)</i>, London: Routledge, 2003; 1-11, 12-35</p> <p>Mitchell, Donald and Sarah H. Jacoby, eds. "Japanese Experience of Buddhism," <i>Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)</i>, Oxford: Oxford</p>



			<p>University Press, 2014: 309, 311-314, 321-335, 343-345, 346-348</p> <p>Yoshimori, Takeuchi. "Honen and Shinran," <i>Buddhist Spirituality II: Later China, Korea, and Japan and the Modern World</i>, New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1999: 203-209, 222-235</p> <p>Discussion Posts #10 Due Wednesday</p> <p>Responses Due Friday</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Nov 29-Dec 3, 2021</b></p> <p><b>- Lecture: Tuesday 10am</b></p>	<p><b>Recent Developments in Japan</b></p>	<p>Readings:</p> <p>Inoue, Nobutaka, Endo Jun, Mori Mizue, Ito Satoshi, eds. "The Modern Age: Shinto confronts modernity," <i>Shinto: A Short History (First Edition)</i>, London: Routledge, 2003: 159-167</p> <p>Mitchell, Donald and Sarah H. Jacoby, eds. "The Cultural Experience of Japanese Buddhism Today," <i>Buddhism: Introducing the Buddhist Experience</i> (3<sup>rd</sup> edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014: 334-349</p> <p>Discussion Post #11 Due Wednesday</p> <p>Responses Due Friday</p> <p><b>Quiz #3 on Japan Due Friday</b></p>
<b>12</b>	<b>Dec 6-10, 2021</b>	<b>East Asian Religions outside of East Asia</b>	<p>Readings:</p>

	<p>- Last Lecture: Tuesday Dec 7, 10am</p>	<p>- globalization, migration, media</p>	<p>Hoff, Benjamin. <i>The Tao of Pooh</i>, New York: Penguin Books, 1-7, 23-35, 67-69, 85, 87-88</p> <p>Crowe, Paul. "Buddhisms in Diaspora: The Canadian Context of Chinese Buddhism," Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion, 2019.</p> <p>Inoue, Nobutaka, Endo Jun, Mori Mizue, Ito Satoshi, eds. "Overseas shrines," "The overseas dissemination of Shinto-derived new religions," <i>Shinto: A Short History (First Edition)</i>, London: Routledge, 2003: 172, 190-198</p> <p>Discussion Post #12</p> <p>Responses Due Friday</p> <p><b>MyTopic due Friday 10pm</b></p>
--	--	--	--

## **Course Policies**

### **Submission of Assignments**

All assignments will be submitted through LEARN and will be screened using Turnitin Plagiarism Detection software.

### **Information on Plagiarism Detection**

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.

## **Late Work**

The basic building block for this course will consist of reading lecture material and engaging in discussions. There is **normally no make-up for missed discussion participation**. Therefore, under normal circumstances, no extension will be granted for discussions. If you are going to miss discussion, please speak to the instructor. If an emergency comes up, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.

**For all other assignments, late assignments will be marked down 5% per day** (weekends will count as one day).

## **Assignments handed in after 72 hours receive zero marks.**

Please note that I submit my grades as soon as I have finished marking those assignments turned in on the due date. Unless you have made arrangements with me prior to the due date, once grades are submitted, they are final. I do not redistribute grades for missed assignments.

If you enroll in the course after lectures have begun, you are responsible for seeking out and learning the material you missed.

## **Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:**

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See

[http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom\\_illness.html](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html)

## **LEARN**

In this course, we will be using LEARN to access course material and interact. Students should be aware that when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the University of Waterloo email account, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with me (the course instructor).

## **Communication**

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have throughout the course. I am happy to arrange virtual office hours to discuss things “in person” rather than through email. I will reply to emails no later than 48 hours after receiving them from Monday to Friday. Unless it is an emergency, I will not reply to emails sent on the weekends until Monday.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity:**

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) webpage (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) and the Arts Academic Integrity webpage (<https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/ethical-behaviour>) for more information.

**Discipline:** Every student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their own actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity>) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration, should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or Academic Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties are imposed under the University of Waterloo Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student 9

Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties>). Students should also be aware that copyright laws in Canada prohibit reproducing more than 10% of any work without permission from its author, publisher, or other copyright holder. Waterloo’s policy on Fair Dealing is available here: <https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-guidelines/fair-dealing-advisory> Violation of Canada’s Copyright Act is a punishable academic offence under Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant, who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there are grounds. Students who believe they have grounds for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>).

**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo)**: <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

**Note for Students with Disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities, without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AAS office at the beginning of each academic term.

### **Intellectual Property.**

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of the instructor, which can include:

- lecture handouts and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint slides)
- lecture content, both spoken and written (and any audio or video recording thereof)
- questions from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams)
- work protected by copyright (i.e., any work authored by the instructor)
- Making available the intellectual property of instructors without their express written consent (e.g., uploading lecture notes or assignments to an online repository) is considered theft of intellectual property and subject to disciplinary sanctions as described in Policy 71 – Student Discipline. Students who become aware of the availability of what may be their instructor’s intellectual property in online repositories are encouraged to alert the instructor.

### **Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

#### **On Campus**

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 xt 32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

#### **Off campus, 24/7**

- Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- OK2BME: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS website  
 Download UWaterloo and regional mental health resources (PDF)  
 Download the WatSafe app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

### **A respectful living and learning environment for all**

Everyone living, learning, and working at Renison University College is expected to contribute to creating a respectful environment free from harassment and discrimination.

If you experience or witness harassment or discrimination, seek help. You may contact Credence & Co., Renison's external anti-harassment and anti-discrimination officers, by email ([info@credenceandco.com](mailto:info@credenceandco.com)) or by phone (519-883-8906). Credence & Co. is an independent K-W based firm which works with organizations toward thriving workplace cultures, including professional coaching, consulting, facilitation, policy development, conflict mediation and ombudsperson functions.

Harassment is unwanted attention in the form of disrespectful comments, unwanted text messages or images, degrading jokes, rude gestures, unwanted touching, or other behaviours meant to intimidate.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Code, discrimination means unequal or different treatment causing harm, whether intentional or not, because of race, disability, citizenship, ethnic origin, colour, age, creed, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or other personal characteristic.